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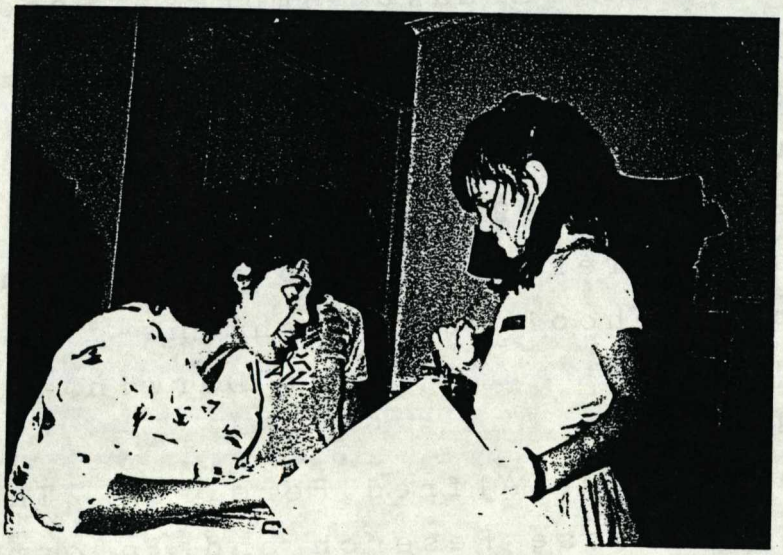
Establishment of Darwin East Timorese School



Japanese Supporting Committee
for Darwin East Timorese School

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Establishment
of
Darwin East Timorese School

Report of the Third Support

(This report was wrriten Aug. 1991.)

Japanese Supporting Committee
for Darwin East Timorese School

Our activity up to this time
---Mainly about School Fund

Dec. 1988--Jan. 1989

First conference as to the scheme of the school establishment at Darwin

Mar. 22 1989

Thanks to Mr. Alfred Fereira, "The East Timorese Reserch and Information Center" was established as a tax-free organization by permission of Northern Territory Government.

Aug. 1989

The first financial aid

We opened an account with the bank for the financial aid for the above mentioned tax exempted organization item 1-1-4-b (Tetun and Portuguese education for the children).

Bank and the account number is as follows.

ANZ BANK. CASUARINA Branch.
Account No. 9236 93976
Account Name/s. The East Timorese
Reserch and Information Center
Budget 1. 1. 4—b.
Address. 247 TROWERROAD. CASUARINA.
DARWIN. NORTHERN TERRITORY
AUSTRALIA

Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School subscribed A$2000 to the above account (approximately ¥220, 000. ———We estimate the exchage rate A$1=¥110. hereafter.)

AUG. 1990

The second support for the school
We subscribed A$3176. 7 to the School Fund account (about ¥348, 000) ——the second financial aid
The school fund summed up to A$5374. 467 including interest (about ¥591, 000).
By this time, we could get subscriptions from all over Japan including Okinawa.

Aug. 1991

The third support for the school
The total money, which was sent to Darwin school fund account directly from Japan during this year, summed

up to A$2094.67. (about ¥230,000)
Details; Dec. 7 1990 A$521.17
(about ¥57,000)
Feb. 18 1991 A$520.71
(about ¥57,000)
Apl. 24 1991 A$373.37
(about ¥41,000)
Apl. 24 1991 A$679.42
(about ¥75,000)

The total sum that was handed to Mr. Alfred Fereira, the president of Darwin Fretilin Committee, and stored in the fund, amounted to A$3,600 (about ¥400,000) including ¥80,000 donated from "End0 Mame" (Green Peace) in Ube, Yamaguchi-ken. Balance of the school fund on Aug. 13 1991 is A$11,505.67 (about ¥1,265,000) including the interest. In addition to this money, two boxes of stationery, sent from "Endo Mame" to secretariat of Japan Committee in Sendai, were donated at the general meeting of Darwin Fretilin committee (12 attendants) on Aug. 14 1991. These stationery will be used for the children's class of Darwin East Timorese School, which will move to the Community Center of the East Timorese.

The Report of the School Establishment
(This report was written in sep. 1990.)

Japanese Supporting Committee
for Darwin East Timorese School

Introduction

Since Jan. 1989, when we started our activities, we have made effort to promote the ethnic education for the children of the East Timorese refugees. Our activities have been widely supported by the kind-hearted people throughout Japan and we visited Darwin twice, 1989 summer and 1990 summer. Here we report the aim and the purpose of our activities , how things are going on, and the future task and problems. We ask your close cooperation and warm support.

The reason why we support the school establishment

In 1975 Indonesia invaded the East Timor. Since then Indonesia not only encloached East Timor by force but also tried to exterminate the race economically and culturally.

The children, on whose shoulders rest the destinies of East Timor, are forced to speak Java language and are deprived of learning Tetun, which is the common

language of East Timor, and also deprived of learning the geography and the history of their own nation. This history is that of colonization by Portugee, Japan and Indonesia. We think it is mutual responsibility for the human being to secure the chance to take the education to hand down the traditions of the race. These traditions are essential for upkeeping and developing the excellent ethnic culture of East Timor (such as songs, dances, hand-made fabric and so on)

Particularly serious is the moral responsibility of us, Japanese, who tortured the Timorese by occupying the Timor island for three and a half years during the World War II, and who, having priority over the economic interests, tolerate the Indonesian invation.

We think we should compel the Japanese government to change the wrong policy against East Timor, and make effort to realize instant and unconditioned withdrawal of Indonesian Army and to achieve the independence of the democratic republic of East Timor. We should assure the East Timorese' children the right to take the ethnic education for their future.

To attain these purposes, it is neces-

sary to support both the ethnic education inside Timor island and that of the refugees' children in Australia and Portugal.

As a part of this activity we, together with refugees there, are now trying to establish the Darwin East Timorese School to give the chance to take ethnic education to the refugees' children in Darwin (.the capital of Northern territory in Australia).

How things are going on.

(1) Beginning of the activity

1988, Fall ~ Winter

We got concrete reports about the condition inside Timor island from our trustworthy friend in Fall 1988 and were informed that the education for the children is particularly important.

The first step began by discussing with refugees about the establishment of the East Timorese School. This discussion continued from Dec. 1989 through Jan. 1990.

(2) A tax-free organization was established in 1990.

From the beginning of 1989, the refugees in Darwin tried to establi-

sh the tax-free organization and gained the approval from the government of Northern Territory on March 22.

This tax-free organization was named " The East Timorese Reseach and Information Center" and in item 1-1-4-b of the object of this organization appears establishment of the school for ethnic education.

(3) Appeal at the international conference

When European East Timor solidarity conference was held in Copenhagen (the capital of Denmark) in Feb. 1989, we appealed the importance of the establishment of East Timorese school by Tetun to resist the racial genocide by Indonesia and to protect and develop the racial identity of East Timorese.

The Swedish member offered financial aid for Darwin's school plan, however, We asked European members to give aid to the ethnic education of the refugees' children in Lisbon. We intend to support the Asian refugees by ourselves.

In Oct. 1989, internatinal conference supporting East Timor was held

in Otawa (capital of Canada). We again appealed necessity of the ethnic education for the children of East Timor at open symposium in Carlton University and met with a sensational reaction.

(4) Support in Darwin in Aug. 1989

We visited Darwin in Aug. 1989 and donated teaching material and stationery and so on to one class which is teaching Tetun and ethnic songs to the children. These children range from infant to the elementary school students and are studying there from evening till night.

Among the teaching material, six volums of the legends of East Timor were included. These books were edited and published by Bolja da Costa Austoronesia Foundation, which is the East Timorese foundtion located in Lisbon, Portugal.

8m video which shows the Tetun class work of this school was put on the air in the morning of July 16 1990 in Hokkaido local news by NHK Sapporo broadcasting station in Japan.

Consulting with the refugees representatives in Darwin, we opened an

account with the bank for the fund of Tetun school establishment according to budget item 1-1-4-b of The East Tiorese Reserch and Information Center, which is before mentioned tax-free organization, and donated A$2,000 (which is as much as more than ¥220,000 by the exchange rate of that day).

We intend to store the capital to this shool fund and utilize the interest for the Darwin East Timorese School and improve the school step by step.

(5) Fund raising activity for "School Fund"

From fall 1989 to summer 1990, as we reported our activity and asked for support to "School Fund", we received heart-warming donations from all over Japan, Okinawa, Fukui, Tokyo, Miyagi and so on.

Among them was a donation as much as ¥30,000 from a lady who had read the "voice" of Asahi News Paper issued on Dec. 31 1989. This money was in her pocket in case that anything should happen. She read the reader's column in which someone wrote that he had sent his donation

to "the Darunee scholarship". This scholarship is giving aid to send the poor children in Thailand to school. She was impressed by this article and was thankful that she had lived in peace that year, and sent us the money.

This very touching donation moved our staff deeply.

(6) Support in Darwin in summer 1990

We again visited Darwin in Aug. 1990, and donated total A$3176.7 (more than ¥380,000 by the exchange rate of that day) to "School Fund". Annual interest of A$197.8 (less than ¥240,000 by the exchange rate of that day) was added to this sum, "School Fund" amounted to A$5374.4 (more than ¥640,000).

This interest will be utilized for East Timorese School in Darwin.

We feel the importance of the "School Fund" raising activity more keenly now.

East Timorese refugees have decided to promote this project by charging a Key Person for the School Project.

(7) Program of Tetun Language School

Program of Tetun lenguage school

by Darwin Fretilin committee is as follows.

Aims

I. Teach spoken Tetun language to the children

II. Teach how to read and write Tetun language to the children

III. Teach history, geography, and culture to the children

Students applicable to this project ——3 groups

1. 4~5 year-old children
2. 6~12 year-old children
3. 13 year-old children to senior high school students

Program

I. to the groups of 1 and 2

Tetun spoken language
Tetun conversation
Tetun songs
Traditional popular dancing of East Timor

II. to the group 2 (6~12 year-old children)

Teach how to read and write Tetun language

III. to the group 3 (13 year-old children to high school students, members of young mens association)

Teach history, geography, and culture of East Timor.

Future task

(1) To realize racial selfdetermination of East Timor as soon as possible

Early accomplishment of the self-determination of Timor has also become an urgent necessity for the school project. To practice the systematic and methodical ethnic education, it is necessary to obtain re-independence of Democratic Republic of East Timor.

For that purpose, more vigorous activities are required of us.

(2) Editing and publishing text books

As Mr. Abilio Araujo, who is the president of Borja da Costa Austoronesia Fundation, stresses it is required to edit and publish text books on Tetun language, history , geography, and culture of East Timor. And to support this effort of Timorese is also indispensable.

(3) To continue and enlarge the fund-raising activity for "School Fund"

We intend to be more active in collecting contributions to fulfill Timor refugees' desire to buy the school building .

To purchase the school building capital of ¥20,000,000 or more is necessary. We ask for your heartful support.

Bank account.

Sanwa Bank Sendai Branch
Bank Deposit Account No. 3557338
Japanese Supporting Committee
for Darwin East Timorese School

September 17, 1990